specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

Financial steps

6. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

7. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

8. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

9. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate, stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Partnership for afforestations scheme

2506. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the details of Multi Stakeholder Partnership for afforestation Scheme;

(b) the number of pulp and paper manufacturers who have availed such scheme; and

(c) the details of acreage offered under such scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet issued any guidelines on Multistake Partnership for afforestation yet. It has though, mooted a Multi Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation on degraded lands in the country. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owning agency, the local village community and the sponsor who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

Degraded forests to pulp and paper manufacturers

2507. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the details of Multi Stakeholder Partnership for afforestation Scheme;

(b) whether the Government have offered degraded forests to the pulp and paper manufacturers under the scheme;

(c) if so, whether Government have ascertained the views of local inhabitants over such scheme; and

(d) the steps which have been taken to protect the interests of the inhabitants of such degraded forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not yet issued any guidelines on Multi Stakeholder Partnership for afforestation yet. It. has though, mooted a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation on degraded lands in the country. The proposed framework envisages a tripartite arrangement between the land owning agency, the local village community and the sponsor who may be a company, firm, user group, trust, society or organization in public or private sector.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Increasing forest cover

2508. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of area covered by forests in our country according to the latest Government records;

(b) the annual income earned by Government by way of auctions of forestcoupe along with the quantity of timber items exported to other countries during the last three years; and

(c) the steps which have been initiated by Government for increasing forest cover including social and farm forestry and the estimated income generated in the private sector during the said period?